

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
T.K. Lawless Park
Cassopolis, MI, MI 49031
November 10, 2020**

1:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Commissioner Campbell

INVOCATION – Commissioner R. Parrish

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Parrish

ROLL CALL – Recording Secretary Dohm

Director Wyman – P

Thomas Atkinson – A

Bruce Campbell –P

Kevin Claire - P

Annie File - P

Hailey Harman – A

David Kring - P

Fritz Kucklick – P

Lyndon Parrish -A

Robert Parrish - P

Jamie Stafne - P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner R. Parrish

Second: Commissioner Kucklick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner Kucklick

Second: Commissioner Stafne

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

1. Commissioner R. Parrish commented about serving on the EDC and their talks regarding the industrial park in Cassopolis by MEC.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Director's report was presented.

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Possibility is great that we will be looking to do a millage campaign.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Skies Update, Commissioner Parrish
 - a. The musicians at the dark sky night were a good addition. Looking to do more with other avenues.
 - b. Saturday night viewing was cancelled due to cloud coverage.
 - c. NASA solar speakers will be available for talks in 2021. Should be a great attraction.
 - d. Quarterly newsletter will be ready next month.
 - e. Commissioner R. Parrish was featured on a segment on WNIT TV.
 - f. With the increase of Covid-19 cases, he is no longer comfortable sharing his telescope with the general public. He will continue to talk with dark sky visitors, and will continue looking into being able to broadcast onto a larger screen what the telescope is viewing.
 - g. The FaceBook page has over 600 followers.
 - h. Talked about the possibility of having alternate nights open for dark sky viewing if the weather isn't cooperating on scheduled nights. We do have to be open for viewing a certain number of nights in order to keep our certification with IDA.
 - i. Commissioner R. Parrish to work on wording for the alternate night scheduling and present it at the December meeting.
 - i. Director Wyman discussed the possibility of a north entrance in the park specifically for dark skies with Sandy Bliesener of OCBA Landscape Architects. She will include a drawing in the Master Plan.
2. EDC Grant

- a. Nothing noted to update.
3. Master Plan
 - a. Sandy Bliesener will be doing some preliminary drawings for the Master Plan including the following priorities:
 - i. Supporting dark skies
 - ii. Overnight camping
 - iii. Scenic overlook
 - iv. Improving what we have
 - b. Based on the survey, people want to see natural things and nature as a priority.
 - c. Survey results included wanting to pave the parking at the boat launch at Sears (CCRC estimate \$7,785 to \$10,000) and the area already paved at Russ Forest (CCRC estimate \$22,000 - \$33,000).
 - d. Commissioner Claire suggested a display for Lawless showcasing the other county parks and their location so visitors get more familiar with all the parks.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Property donation
 - a. Tim & Sharon Ackerson would like to donate 40 acres to Cass County Parks upon their deaths.
 - b. Director Wyman has visited the area, and said it would make a great disc golf course.
2. Timber bid
 - a. Jeff Steinkraus had figured the estimate would come in at about \$18,000, but the winning bid came back at \$24,128. We will owe him \$1,900.
 - i. There were 5 bids between \$12,500 and \$24,128.
 - b. The cut will begin after January 1 and be done by March 31.

MOTION: To accept the bid of \$24,128. – Commissioner R. Parrish

SECOND: Commissioner Claire

Motion carried.

3. Locations for upcoming meetings were discussed.
 - a. In-person or zoom
 - b. Will be determined at a later date as the parameters for meetings change frequently due to Covid.
4. Commissioner Claire presented his letter of resignation from the board to Chairperson Campbell, effective this date.
5. Annual Passes for the 2021 season

MOTION: To continue the current price structure for season passes at \$15 in-county and \$25 out-of-county, and to run our annual discount of \$3 off the price until the end of the year. – Commissioner R. Parrish

SECOND: Commissioner Kring

Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commissioner Campbell was very sorry to see Commissioner Claire leaving the board with his tremendous impact on the commission with his keen perspective as an outdoorsman that utilizes the parks.
2. Director Wyman suggested the commission consider giving the 2nd Johnie Rodebush award to a well-deserving Rollie Johnson.
 - a. Criteria for the award will available at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Claire

Second: Commissioner R. Parrish

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting December 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.